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Patent
62478-6900

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A panel display apparatus comprising:

a gas discharge panel in which a plurality of pairs of first and second electrodes covered with a dielectric are arranged between a pair of substrates; and

a driving circuit which accumulates a wall charge on the dielectric to write an image, and successively applies a plurality of sustain pulses to the first electrode and the second electrode so that a potential of the second electrode relative to the first electrode alternates in polarity, to perform a sustain discharge in areas where the wall charge has been accumulated,

wherein immediately before a leading edge of each sustain pulse, the driving circuit applies a voltage to at least one of the first electrode and the second electrode so that a short pulse, which is opposite in polarity to a potential generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by the sustain pulse, is formed between the first electrode and the second electrode, for a predetermined period that is no more than 100 ns generates a potential difference in the form of a short pulse between the first electrode and the second electrode for a predetermined period that is no more than 100ns.

wherein a polarity of the potential difference in the form of a short pulse is opposite to a polarity of a potential difference generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by the sustain pulse.

Patent
62478-6900

3. (Previously Presented) The panel display apparatus of Claim 2, wherein an absolute value of a voltage of the short pulse formed by the driving circuit is no smaller than an absolute value of a voltage of the sustain pulse.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The panel display apparatus of Claim 3, wherein a time during which the absolute value of the voltage of the short pulse is no smaller than the absolute value of the voltage of the sustain pulse is no more than 50 ns.

6. (Previously Presented) The panel display apparatus of Claim 2, wherein an absolute value of a voltage of the short pulse formed by the driving circuit is no smaller than 1.5 times an absolute value of a voltage of the sustain pulse.

7. (Currently Amended) A panel display apparatus comprising:

a gas discharge panel in which a plurality of pairs of first and second electrodes covered with a dielectric are arranged between a pair of substrates; and

a driving circuit which accumulates a wall charge on the dielectric to write the image, and successively applies a plurality of sustain pulses to the first electrode and the second electrode so that a potential of the second electrode relative to the first electrode alternates in polarity, to perform a sustain discharge in areas where the wall charge has been accumulated,

wherein immediately before a leading edge of at least a sustain pulse of the plurality of sustain pulses which is first applied, the driving circuit applies a voltage to at least one of the first electrode and the second electrode so that a short pulse, which is opposite in polarity to a potential generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by the sustain

Patent
62478-6900

pulse, is formed between the first electrode and the second electrode, for a predetermined period that is no more than 100 ns generates a potential difference in the form of a short pulse between the first electrode and the second electrode by applying a voltage to at least one of the first electrode and the second electrode for a predetermined period that is no more than 100ns.

wherein a polarity of the potential difference in the form of a short pulse is opposite to a polarity of a potential difference generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by the sustain pulse.

8. (Previously Presented) The panel display apparatus of Claim 7, wherein an absolute value of a voltage of the short pulse formed by the driving circuit is no smaller than an absolute value of a voltage of the sustain pulse.

9. (Previously Presented) The panel display apparatus of Claim 8, wherein a time during which the absolute value of the voltage of the short pulse is no smaller than the absolute value of the voltage of the sustain pulse is no more than 100 ns.

10. (Previously Presented) The panel display apparatus of Claim 8, wherein a time during which the absolute value of the voltage of the short pulse is no smaller than the absolute value of the voltage of the sustain pulse is no more than 50 ns.

11. (Previously Presented) The panel display apparatus of Claim 7, wherein an absolute value of a voltage of the short pulse formed by the driving circuit is no smaller than 1.5 times an absolute value of a voltage of the sustain pulse.

12-16. (Cancelled)

Patent
62478-6900

17. (Previously Presented) A panel display apparatus for displaying an image in a discharge sustain period, comprising:

a gas discharge panel in which a plurality of discharge cells are arranged in the form of matrix between a pair of substrates; and

a driving circuit which applies a write pulse to selected discharge cells of the plurality of discharge cells to write the image, and successively applies a plurality of sustain pulses to each of the plurality of discharge cells to perform a sustain discharge in the selected discharge cells, wherein

an absolute value of a voltage of each sustain pulse which is applied to the discharge cell is higher during a first period than a second period, the first period being a fixed period from a leading edge of the sustain pulse, and the second period being a period from a lapse of the fixed period to a trailing edge of the sustain pulse,

a highest absolute value of the voltage of the sustain pulse in the first period exceeds an absolute value of a discharge firing voltage of the discharge cell,

the absolute value of the voltage of the sustain pulse in the second period is below the absolute value of the discharge firing voltage of the discharge cell, and

a time during which the absolute value of the voltage of the sustain pulse exceeds the absolute value of the discharge firing voltage is no more than 100 ns.

18. (Previously Presented) A panel display apparatus for displaying an image in a discharge sustain period, comprising:

a gas discharge panel in which a plurality of discharge cells are arranged in the form of matrix between a pair of substrates; and

Patent
62478-6900

a driving circuit which applies a write pulse to selected discharge cells of the plurality of discharge cells to write the image, and successively applies a plurality of sustain pulses to each of the plurality of discharge cells to perform a sustain discharge in the selected discharge cells, wherein

an absolute value of a voltage of each sustain pulse which is applied to the discharge cell is higher during a first period than a second period, the first period being a fixed period from a leading edge of the sustain pulse, and the second period being a period from a lapse of the fixed period to a trailing edge of the sustain pulse, and

immediately after the trailing edge of the sustain pulse, the driving circuit applies a pulse that is opposite in polarity to the sustain pulse, to the discharge cell for a predetermined period that is no more than 100 ns.

19. (Previously Presented) A panel display apparatus comprising:

a gas discharge panel in which a plurality of discharge cells are arranged between a pair of substrates; and

a driving circuit which (a) applies a write pulse to selected discharge cells of the plurality of discharge cells to write an image, and (b) successively applies a plurality of sustain pulses to each of the plurality of discharge cells to perform a sustain discharge in the selected discharge cells,

wherein an absolute value of a voltage of at least a sustain pulse of the plurality of sustain pulses which is first applied to the discharge cell is higher during a first period than a second period, the first period being a fixed period from a leading edge of the sustain pulse, and

Patent
62478-6900

the second period being a period from a lapse of the fixed period to a trailing edge of the sustain pulse, and

a time during which the absolute value of the voltage of the sustain pulse exceeds an absolute value of a discharge firing voltage of the discharge cell is no more than 100 ns.

20. (Previously Presented) The panel display apparatus of Claim 19,

wherein a highest absolute value of the voltage of the sustain pulse in the first period exceeds the absolute value of a discharge firing voltage of the discharge cell, and

the absolute value of the voltage of the sustain pulse in the second period is below the absolute value of the discharge firing voltage of the discharge cell.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The panel display apparatus of Claim 19, wherein immediately after the trailing edge of the sustain pulse, the driving circuit applies a pulse that is opposite in polarity to the sustain pulse, to the discharge cell for a predetermined period.

23. - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A panel display apparatus comprising:

a gas discharge panel in which a plurality of pairs of first and second electrodes covered with a dielectric are arranged between a pair of substrates; and

a driving circuit which accumulates a wall charge on the dielectric to write an image, and successively applies a plurality of sustain pulses to the first electrode and the second

Patent
62478-6900

electrode ~~so that a potential of the second electrode relative to the first electrode alternates in polarity~~, to perform a sustain discharge in areas where the wall charge has been accumulated,

wherein immediately after a trailing edge of each sustain pulse, the driving circuit ~~applies a voltage so that a short pulse, which is opposite in polarity to a potential generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by the sustain pulse, is formed between the first electrode and the second electrode, for a predetermined period that is no more than 100 ns~~ generates a potential difference in the form of a short pulse between the first electrode and the second electrode by applying a voltage to at least one of the first electrode and the second electrode for a predetermined period that is no more than 100 ns.

wherein a polarity of the potential difference in the form of a short pulse is opposite to a polarity of a potential difference generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by the sustain pulse.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A driving method for displaying an image in a discharge sustain period in a gas discharge panel in which a plurality of pairs of first and second electrodes covered with a dielectric are arranged between a pair of substrates, comprising:

a writing step for accumulating a wall charge on the dielectric to write the image;
and

a discharge sustaining step for successively applying a plurality of sustain pulses to the first electrode and the second electrode ~~so that a potential of the second electrode relative to the first electrode alternates in polarity~~, to perform a sustain discharge areas where the wall charge has been accumulated,

Patent
62478-6900

wherein in the discharge sustaining step, immediately before a leading edge of each sustain pulse, ~~a voltage is applied to at least one of the first electrode and the second electrode so that a short pulse, which is opposite in polarity to a potential generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by the sustain pulse, is formed between the first electrode and the second electrode, for a predetermined period that is not more than 100 ns~~ a potential difference in the form of a short pulse is generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by applying a voltage to at least one of the first electrode and the second electrode for a predetermined period that is no more than 100 ns.

wherein a polarity of the potential difference in the form of a short pulse is opposite to a polarity of a potential difference generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by the sustain pulse.

32. (Currently Amended) A driving method for displaying an image in a discharge sustain period in a gas discharge panel in which a plurality of pairs of first and second electrodes covered with a dielectric are arranged between a pair of substrates, comprising:

a writing step for accumulating a wall charge on the dielectric to write the image;

and

a discharge sustaining step for successively applying a plurality of sustain pulses to the first electrode and the second electrode ~~so that a potential of the second electrode relative to the first electrode alternates in polarity,~~ to perform a sustain discharge in areas where the wall charge has been accumulated,

wherein in the discharge sustaining step, immediately before a leading edge of at least a sustain pulse of the plurality of sustain pulses which is first applied, ~~a voltage is applied to~~

Patent
62478-6900

~~at least one of the first electrode and the second electrode so that a short pulse, which is opposite in polarity to a potential generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by the sustain pulse, is formed between the first electrode and the second electrode, for a predetermined period that is no more than 100 ns a potential difference in the form of a short pulse is generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by applying a voltage to at least one of the first electrode and the second electrode for a predetermined period that is no more than 100 ns.~~

wherein a polarity of the potential difference in the form of a short pulse is opposite to a polarity of a potential difference generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by the sustain pulse.

33. (Previously Presented) A driving method for displaying an image in a discharge sustain period in a gas discharge panel in which a plurality of discharge cells are arranged between a pair of substrates, comprising:

a writing step for applying a write pulse to selected discharge cells of the plurality of discharge cells to write the image; and

a discharge sustaining step for successively applying a plurality of sustain pulses to each of the plurality of discharge cells to perform a sustain discharge in the selected discharge cells,

wherein in the discharge sustaining step, an absolute value of a voltage of each sustain pulse which is applied to the discharge cell is higher during a first period than a second period, the first period being a fixed period from a leading edge of the sustain pulse, and the second period being a period from a lapse of the fixed period to a trailing edge of the sustain pulse, and

Patent
62478-6900

a time during which the absolute value of the voltage of the sustain pulse exceeds an absolute value of a discharge firing voltage of the discharge cell is no more than 100 ns.

34. (Currently Amended) A driving method for displaying an image in a discharge sustain period in a gas discharge panel in which a plurality of pairs of first and second electrodes covered with a dielectric are arranged between a pair of substrates, comprising:

a writing step for accumulating a wall charge on the dielectric to write the image;
and

a discharge sustaining step for successively applying a plurality of sustain pulses to the first electrode and the second electrode so that ~~a potential of the second electrode relative to the first electrode alternates in polarity~~, to perform a sustain discharge in areas where the wall charge has been accumulated,

wherein in the discharge sustaining step, immediately after a trailing edge of each sustain pulse, ~~a voltage is applied so that a short pulse, which is opposite in polarity to a potential generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by the sustain pulse, is formed between the first electrode and the second electrode, for a predetermined period that is not more than 100 ns~~ a potential difference in the form of a short pulse is generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by applying a voltage to at least one of the first electrode and the second electrode for a predetermined period that is no more than 100ns.

wherein a polarity of the potential difference in the form of a short pulse is opposite to a polarity of a potential difference generated between the first electrode and the second electrode by the sustain pulse.

Patent
62478-6900

35-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) The panel display apparatus of Claim 2,

wherein the driving circuit applies the plurality of sustain pulses alternately to the first electrode and the second electrode, and, immediately before the leading edge of each sustain pulse, applies a short pulse of a same polarity as the sustain pulse to one of the first electrode and the second electrode to which the sustain pulse is to be applied, for the predetermined period that is no more than 100 ns; and

wherein the sustain pulses are applied to scan electrodes and sustain electrodes alternately.

40. (Currently Amended) The panel display apparatus of Claim 2,

wherein the driving circuit applies the plurality of sustain pulses alternately to the first electrode and the second electrode, and, immediately before the leading edge of each sustain pulse, applies a short pulse of a same polarity as the sustain pulse to the other one of the first electrode and the second electrode to which the sustain pulse is not to be applied, for the predetermined period that is no more than 100 ns; and

~~wherein the sustain pulses are applied to scan electrodes and sustain electrodes coincidentally.~~

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